



# THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 63 Number 1  
Winter 2026

## President's Corner

### Notes from the President



I can't think of a more thankless job than leading a school boundary change. Multiple factors to balance, passionate parents on all sides with different perspectives, and in the end there's no way to make everyone happy. With the new Crown High School set to open in the fall of 2027, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is in the middle of that right now—a boundary study that won't change where kids go to elementary school but will impact where they go to middle school and high school after that. These studies don't happen too often, and it's likely the decisions made will dictate where our kids go to school for the next two decades. It's been a very confusing process but bear with me, I'm going to do my best to make sense of it.

Executing a school boundary change is a challenge, but the MCPS School Board hasn't made it any easier for themselves, or for parents. In addition to the typical factors to sort out—school capacity over time, bus routes, demographics, etc.—there are two big variables driving the boundary decisions that won't be decided until the very end of the process:

1. Will the new Crown HS be its own actual high school with dedicated students or will it be a holding school...or a combination of both? Because of the renovation work needed in schools across the County and a lack of space to temporarily house students during construction, the Schools Superintendent wants to evaluate Crown to be used in full, or in part, as a holding school.
2. What will the final high school 'regions' look like? If you haven't heard of high school 'regions' yet, it's because they don't exist ... yet. In a nutshell, MCPS wants to align articulation paths within six regions across the County, meaning they want kids from an elementary school in a specific region to also feed into middle schools and high schools in the same region. The regions are not

*Continued on 3*

## What's Happening in Darnestown

*Further details can be found in this issue.*

**Feb. 13; Mar. 13; April 10;  
May 8, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.**  
**Seneca Academy  
Friday Friends Playgroup**  
Go to [senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends](https://senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends) for details

**March 12, 2026**  
**Seneca Academy Parenting Series**  
"Navigating Friendships and  
Playground Politics"  
RSVP at [senecaacademy.org/parenting](https://senecaacademy.org/parenting)

**May 16, 2026**  
**Deadline for The DCA Scholarship, and  
The Bruce Deppa Scholarship**  
Go to [darnestowncivic.org](https://darnestowncivic.org) for details and application guidelines

**May 21, 2026**  
**Seneca Academy Parenting Series**  
"Understanding Childhood  
Stress and Anxiety"  
RSVP at [senecaacademy.org/parenting](https://senecaacademy.org/parenting)

## We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

**March 1, 2026**

Email ideas, questions or articles to:  
[acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@darnestowncivic.org)

---

# 2026 DCA Membership

---

Dear Darnestown Neighbor:

Darnestown is a special place to live! To keep it that way, the Darnestown Civic Association's (DCA) mission is to support the general welfare and community interests of this beloved community. **JOIN the "Darne" Community to STAY INFORMED** of important DCA services, including:

## Stewardship

- Publishing *The Little Acorn*—The DCA's quarterly newsletter mailed (and online) to all Darnestown residents, including non-members
- Organizing **Community Events**—the DCA Spring Social, annual Hoedown, Farmer's Market, Holiday Tree and Menorah Lightings, town meetings, Veterans Day breakfast, local hikes, and other activities
- Emailing Alerts—event invites, safety/crime notifications, lost dog/pet broadcasts and more
- Providing **Roadside Flags**
- Maintaining the "Welcome to Darnestown" sign as well as new homeowner personal engagement
- Sustaining a DCA website **darnestowncivic.org**

## Strategic Projects

- Advocating everyday issues that impact Darnestown—**school safety and boundary changes**, road construction and traffic safety (**Roads Task Force**), utility reliability, village center development, zoning, **public safety (including commercial house parties)**, cell towers, **commercial solar farm installations**, Montgomery County Master Plan updates, State and County trail network, deer population, Agricultural Reserve, and environmental issues

- Responding to community needs—The Whole of Darnestown (WoD) Volunteer Program—a collaborative effort between a variety of Darnestown institutions to make sure every resident in Darnestown is able to reach out for assistance and that the infrastructure is in place to connect neighborhood volunteers with those residents in need
- Maintaining a DCA "Contingency Legal Fund"—financial reserves for professional assistance concerning quality of life in Darnestown

Basic annual dues for homeowners is \$35. We also have additional giving levels: \$50 Friend of Darnestown Program, \$100 Sponsor Program, and \$150 Acorn Program. There is also a \$250 Business Membership category. All paid 2026 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.

The **easiest way** to join/renew is to go on-line at: **www.DarnestownCivic.org (Website Upgrades Coming in 2026!)**. If you prefer to pay by check, simply fill out the form on page 14 and mail it to us with your check. Wonder if you've paid already for 2026? Email us at **membership@darnestowncivic.org**

Please join us and help the DCA preserve and enhance this place we call home. The DCA relies on membership (primary source of revenue) and volunteers; please contact us to see how you can help. Our Executive Board usually meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Enjoying community participation is part of the equation.

Sincerely,



Scott Mostrom, President  
**president@darnestowncivic.org**

---

## DCA Updates

**Welcome Caitlin Bannister to the team!!** After close to 7 years, Stephanie Kunkle is ready to pass the torch and Caitlin has offered to step up to head the Social Committee. Caitlin, we are so excited to have you and look forward to all of the good things to come!

Thank you, Stephanie, for your many years bringing exciting and meaningful events to Darnestown. Stephanie has truly revolutionized our engagement with the community from just a few events on the calendar to a whole new set of traditions, including the Santa Tour of Darnestown, Veteran's Day Breakfast, Farmers' Market, Food Truck Thursdays, Easter Egg Roll, and enhancements she's brought to our other events. While she is stepping down from her role as Social Committee, she will remain on the DCA Board as a Trustee!!

# President's Corner (continued)

*Continued from 1*

finalized but the option below appears to be the direction things are going.

The Boundary Study has released its 8 final options, and a recommendation is expected by the Superintendent of Schools this January '26, with a Board vote for final approval in March '26. Changes take effect in the fall of '27.

So, what do the options look like for Darnestown? Well, for Jones Lane Elementary it's pretty simple—it is aligned to Region 5 and all 8 options have Jones Lane feeding into Ridgeview MS and then Quince Orchard HS. Darnestown Elementary School is a little more complicated. DES has been aligned to Region 6 and all 8 options have DES feeding into Kingsview MS. Six of those options then have DES feeding into Northwest HS, one option to Poolesville HS, and one option splitting DES—the northwest part of Darnestown going to Poolesville HS, the south-east portion going to Northwest HS.

When evaluating these options, particularly for DES, it's important to understand how we got here:

- Spring '25: The Boundary Study released their first set of 4 options. These options are no longer valid, but all of

them had DES going to Quince Orchard HS and either Ridgeview MS or Lakelands Park MS. To many in Darnestown that made logical sense—the new Crown HS would be pulling students from several nearby high schools, including Quince Orchard, and DES would slide from going to from Northwest HS to Quince Orchard HS, which is generally much closer.

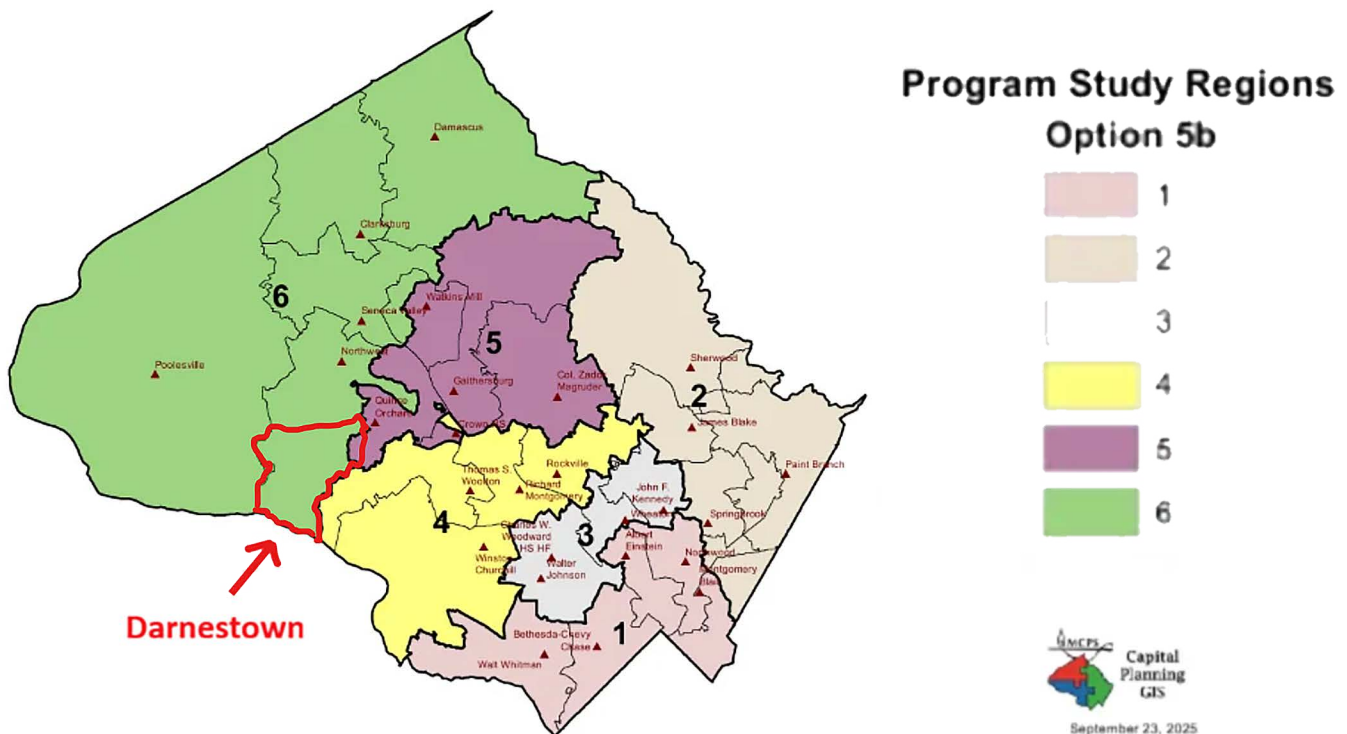
- October '25:

» Prior to releasing new options in October, the Boundary Study decided to coordinate with another concurrent MCPS study, the Academic Programs Analysis. That study introduced the 'regions' concept, with the goal to offer the County's specialized academic programs in high schools within each of the six regions, rather than offering in just one or a couple of select County high schools. This approach will reduce travel time and improve accessibility of these programs. The concept of 'regions' then entered the Boundary Study discussion.

» Also prior to the new options in October, facility utilization and enrollment projections were updated and adjusted.

» The 4 options released by the Boundary Study in

*Continued on 4*



---

## President's Corner (continued)

---

*Continued from 3*

October replaced the original spring options, and had DES in Region 6, going to Kingsview MS and either Northwest HS or Poolesville HS

- » Based on an initial survey of DES parents and residents after those options came out, the DCA petitioned the School Board to include some version of the original spring options (Quince Orchard, Lakelands Park MS, Ridgeview MS) in the final set of 4 additional options to be released in December.
- December '25:
  - » The additional 4 options were released, all with DES still in Region 6, going to Kingsview MS and either Northwest HS or Poolesville HS.

Effectively, the County is pushing that DES should be part of the upcounty Region 6, which means it needs to attend schools in that region—Kingsview MS and either Northwest HS or Poolesville HS. And if your

kids will be part of any specialized academic programs, it will most likely be in a high school in Region 6. The primary concerns raised by Darnestown parents and residents around the current options are the driving distance/bus times and that the schools in those very first set of options (Quince Orchard HS, Lakelands Park MS, and Ridgeview MS) are closer, a more logical extension of our community and the direction that most of us go for other activities outside of school. A huge concern expressed by parents is keeping DES students together through high school and not having them split (i.e. the one option where part of Darnestown goes to Poolesville HS, the other part to Northwest HS).

So where do we go from here? By the time you're reading this, the formal MCPS feedback survey will have closed and we'll be expecting the Superintendent's recommendation soon. The DCA will continue to communicate out the latest updates and will begin discussing in January if additional advocacy efforts should be supported.

---

## DCA News

---

### **Darnestown's 54th Annual Hoedown** *Friday, October 3rd at Smokey Glen Farm*

Smokey Glen Farm set the stage for another lively Hoedown as neighbors gathered to enjoy an evening of music, dancing, and good company. Guests lined up for a hearty meal featuring chicken, ribs, soup, salads, and homemade pies before heading to the dance floor. Square and line dancing added to the fun, bringing seasoned dancers and first-timers together throughout the night. Live music by **Billy and Boogie** kept the energy high and the crowd moving until the evening drew to a close.

A longtime Darnestown tradition, the Hoedown once again delivered a memorable night of community spirit and celebration. Plans are already underway for next year's event, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back again.



**You can view *The Little Acorn* online in full color and with clickable links at [darnestowncivic.org/little-acorn/](https://darnestowncivic.org/little-acorn/)**

---

## DCA News (continued)

---

### Celebrating Darnestown Veterans and Their Service

On November 11th, Darnestown came together to honor local veterans at the 5th annual Veterans Day breakfast. Co-hosted by the Darnestown Civic Association and Darnestown Presbyterian Church, the event offered a warm and welcoming setting for veterans and their families to be recognized for their dedication and sacrifices. Guests enjoyed a hearty breakfast generously provided by Roy Rogers (Plamondon Family) and Operation Second Chance, a nonprofit supporting veterans and their families.

The gathering was made even more special by a visit from Georgetown Hill's Transitional Kindergarten class, whose handmade thank-you notes and placemats and songs delighted the veterans and all who attended. Attendees shared stories, expressed gratitude, and celebrated the veterans' service, reinforcing a sense of community and connection across all ages.

The 2025 Veterans Day breakfast was a memorable tribute to those who have served, highlighting both appreciation and the bonds that tie the community together.



---

### 2026 Scholarship Opportunity

Attention Darnestown Seniors. If you are a graduating high school senior living within the Darnestown community, the Darnestown Civic Association is excited to offer two scholarship opportunities for you:

**The DCA Scholarship**, which supports an applicant who has demonstrated civic engagement.

**The Bruce Deppa Scholarship**, which supports an applicant who embodies all things Darnestown.

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA's mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. The deadline for submissions is May 16, 2026. Head to the DCA website at [darnestowncivic.org](https://darnestowncivic.org) for more scholarship details and application guidelines. Scan the QR code with your smart phone to go directly to our scholarship page.



---

## DCA News (continued)

---

### Santa Visits Darnestown

*By Caitlin Bannister*

Santa came to Darnestown this year escorted by an entourage of fire trucks! We were so excited to have United Heritage Fire Company join us to escort Santa, Mrs. Claus, and his elf around Darnestown as they delivered candy canes across town. Afterwards they all joined the Darnestown community at Heritage Park for the tree lighting. The fire trucks played Christmas music on their

loudspeakers until the Mary of Nazareth youth choir delivered a wonderful performance of Christmas carols. Everyone enjoyed treats and hot cocoa before Santa and the kids lit the Christmas tree. We had a wonderful turnout this year and we couldn't have asked for better December weather for the day! Much appreciation to IJ Hudson for taking photos of the event.



---

### 6th Annual Menorah Lighting

*By Caitlin Bannister*



Hanukkah was accompanied by some seriously cold weather this year! We hosted the 6th Annual Menorah Lighting on Friday, December 19th, rescheduled from our original date

of December 14th. The 14th was brutally cold, but the 19th brought a lot of wind. Nevertheless, our community gathered together despite the cold and wind to light the menorah. We are grateful to everyone who joined us, especially the Ruf family for leading a prayer before lighting the menorah. We also had a surprise concert



performance of "I have a little dreidel" on the trumpet! It was a wonderful community event that brought together neighbors and friends to celebrate Hanukkah. IJ Hudson was not going to be deterred by the weather and we'd like to thank IJ for all of his support of our community and capturing our events on camera.

---

## Community News and Events

---

### Celebrating 100 years

On December 8, 2025, Dr. Raul Miranda celebrated his 100th birthday. Dr. Miranda is a retired thoracic surgeon. A naturalized citizen who emigrated from Bolivia in the 1980's, he has been a Maryland resident for the last 40 years. From 1988 through 2010 he was the editor of the *Gaceta Iberoamericana*, a Spanish language print and digital publication focusing on literature, music, art, and theater in the Washington, DC area. His three children and their families all call Darnestown and North Potomac home, and many of his seven grandchildren attended Darnestown schools. The family celebrated his 100th birthday on December 8th. Happy 100th Birthday, Dr. Mrianda!



---

# Community News and Events (continued)

---

## Celebrating 70 Years of Darnestown ES: Platinum Pumpkin Palooza

By Jenn Moss

Darnestown Elementary School proudly celebrated a remarkable milestone—the **70th Anniversary of Darnestown Elementary School** while hosting an unforgettable **Platinum Pumpkin Palooza** on Saturday, November 8, 2025. The festival was **free and open to the public**, bringing together current and former Mustangs, educators, neighbors, families, alumni, and friends in true Darnestown spirit.

This anniversary year included a tremendous honor: DES was awarded a **Governor's Citation from Governor Wesley Moore** recognizing the school and PTA's outstanding education and community excellence. Additionally, we welcomed Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe and David Chia, Director of the Division of School Leadership and Improvement for MCPS.

Guests enjoyed an afternoon brimming with fun, nostalgia, and celebration. Every space reflected countless hours of planning and volunteer dedication.

### Mustang History

The Mustang Museum and school archives gave families a chance to explore 70 years of photos, artifacts, and stories. Attendees could flip through old year-books, sign alumni banners by decade, and tour special time-capsule displays honoring the people and memories that built DES. Special speakers and a 2025 time capsule were also a featured part of the day.

### Show-Stopping Pumpkin Plop Roof Drop

The celebration culminated in one of Darnestown's most beloved traditions—the **4th Annual Pumpkin Plop Roof Drop**, which was featured on **WJLA ABC News** and in **Montgomery County Public School News**. Teams engineered pumpkin creations and released them from the school's rooftop to see which would survive the drop in spectacular fashion.

### Pumpkin Plop Winners:

- **Overall Performance:** *Team DES Staff*
- **Students' Choice Award:** *Team DES Admin*

Their creativity, teamwork, and Mustang spirit made the finale unforgettable.

### Gratitude to our Community of Care

Thank you to our teachers, staff, alumni, volunteers, student helpers, and families who contributed their time,



energy, creativity, and heart. From decorating hallways and designing exhibits to coordinating food, music, safety, signage, activities, and logistics—this celebration was a true reflection of what makes DES feel like home.

### 70th Anniversary Sponsors

We are profoundly grateful to the local businesses whose generosity helped bring the Platinum Pumpkin Palooza to life. **Premiere Partner Sponsors:** Tyra Law Firm, Hercules Fence; **Harvest Hero Sponsors:** Whitman Events Co., Whitman Summer Camp; **Mustang Mentor Sponsors:** Darnestown Civic Association; **Community Connector Sponsors:** Georgetown Hill Early School, SwimLabs, Bella Ballet, Potomac Pizza.

We are also immensely grateful to the incredible team of volunteers who helped plan the event, and the amazing community partners who were a part of our celebration including: **Neil Tyra (musical guest)**, **Bach to Rock Gaithersburg**, **Whitman Events Co.**, **Sparkle Locks by Jackie Miller**, **MoCo Sign Gypsies**, **Bar-T**, **Face Painting Styles by Claudia Figueredo**, **i9 Sports**, and **Delicious Gourmet**

Here's to 70 years of Mustang Magic and to YOU, the community that continues to lead, support, and lift up Darnestown ES with heart and pride.



To see the DES PTA's full gratitude newsletter complete with videos, scan the QR code here.

---

# Community News and Events (continued)

---

## Seneca Academy Community Events

### Friday Friends Playgroup

Seneca Academy continues to offer a free playgroup open to all parents and caregivers of infants to two-year-olds. We will be gathering and playing in a toddler-friendly classroom on the second Friday of the month through May. Please visit [senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends](https://senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends) for more info! Spots are limited!



### Parenting Series

Seneca Academy's free Parenting Series, offered by child psychologist Dr. Michelle Parker, continues this year! It kicked off on December 11 with "Parenting in the Digital Age." Save the dates for "Navigating Friendships and Play-ground Politics" on March 12 and "Understanding Childhood Stress and Anxiety" on May 21. RSVP at [senecaacademy.org/parenting](https://senecaacademy.org/parenting).



---

## Schools

---

### Butler Montessori

*Serving Infants–High School*

[www.ButlerSchool.org](https://www.ButlerSchool.org)

*Building Confidence, One Trip at a Time*



In October, our Elementary students (grades 4–6) completed a two-day overnight at Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Chesapeake, testing water quality, identifying native

species, paddling, problem-solving, and practicing teamwork. These experiences scaffold Upper School trips (grades 7–12): hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, conducting field studies in Olympic and Grand Teton National Parks, and learning among the California Redwoods (spring 2026). This November, our 9th graders will study bioluminescence in Puerto Rico. Back on campus, students create and sell items from their farm to help fund the trips. Along the way, they practice leadership, compassion, independence, and responsibility. If this feels like the right fit, we'd love to meet you. Select openings in grades 4–12, boys encouraged to inquire.

Learn more and schedule an in-person tour at [www.butlerschool.org](https://www.butlerschool.org)



*By Parker Silverman*

Darnestown had a wonderful, wild, amazing autumn celebrating its 70th anniversary. This was a huge accomplishment and milestone for DES, celebrated with a better than ever 70th Anniversary Pumpkin Palooza directed by the new and amazing PTA President, Jennifer Moss, along with help from many other staff, teachers, and parents at Darnestown. As someone who was there helping out, I can tell you that in all the years I was at DES, I never saw any PTA event like this one. There was a band playing amazing music outside, there were many activities in the gym, and 70th Anniversary decorations everywhere. Many former staff and students came to visit. They shared their memories of DES with the audience, walked through the "museum" of seven decades and signed banners from each

*Continued on 9*



---

## Schools (continued)

---

*Continued from 8*

decade. I'm sure that for all the current teachers and students, it was amazing to see all the DES alumni. There was even a local news crew recording the event.

Another event was the popular Book Fair. The library was packed with students and parents choosing new books to read. Finally, we had an exciting visit from News 4's chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer who shared with us how he was inspired to become a meteorologist.

This January we will have our annual school dance with a cool DJ and in February, fun games and prizes at Bingo Night. This is an amazing year for DES!

---

### Seneca Academy

Seneca Academy excitedly invites you to our parents-only informational open house on February 6. RSVP at [senecaacademy.org/openhouse](https://senecaacademy.org/openhouse). Elementary applications for 2026-2027 are open now and applications for preschool open online on February 8!

Developing community outside of the school day

is also a big part of Seneca Academy! The Seneca Academy Parent Association hosts events for our students and families throughout the year, including spirit days, restaurant night fundraisers, Trunk or Treat, World Cultures Celebration, Homecoming in the fall, and STEAM Fair in the spring. This year our faculty and administration have begun hosting events as well, including a spectacular, fun-filled Speed Friending evening in the fall and an upcoming Fox Trot fun run for the community in April! (Stay tuned to [senecaacademy.org/foxtrot](https://senecaacademy.org/foxtrot) for information as it's released, or keep an eye on the next issue of the *Little Acorn*!)



*Speed Friending*

---

## Organizations

---



*By Hilary Shaw*

2026 is the perfect time to become part of the Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club family. With a full calendar of events, live music, and summer fun planned, we invite non-members to join and make DSRC their summer home.

Camp registration will open on January 10th for all members. The first week of the year we will be sending out additional camp information as registration approaches. In the meantime, all camp information has been updated on our website, [dsrclub.com/summer-camp/](https://dsrclub.com/summer-camp/), we recommend looking through this page to prepare for registration. In 2025 camp did not

sell out immediately but we highly recommend registering on the day that registration opens if you are counting on using Camp GreenZone for your children in 2026.

We will be posting job openings shortly after the new year. We will have openings for camp counselors, snack bar and lifeguard positions in 2026. The snack bar positions fill up quickly and are first come first serve so please look for the email opening our application process if your child is looking at work at DSRC in 2026.

---

### DarneBloomers Garden Club

*By Tracy Lang*

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club kicked off our 2025-2026 year on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Bretton Woods Recreation Club with a new slate of officers led by President, Nancy Kaplan, and Vice President, Rachel Knudsen. A file listing

*Continued on 10*

---

## Organizations (continued)

---

*Continued from 9*

the programs for the upcoming year was sent to members ahead of the meeting, and following breakfast, our Programs Chair, Pam Baer, and Assistant Chair, Amy Gross, drew names to sign up hosts for upcoming activities. As always, the programs include a mix of presentations and hands on activities. This year's programs include: an October visit to Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouse and Garden Center, a newly revitalized 100-year-old garden center in Purcellville, VA; a hands-on activity creating fall centerpieces in November; a holiday lecture and demonstration in December on how and why we grow herbs for tea provided by Kari Barrett; and a hands-on activity making tea-cup floral arrangements in January. Rounding out the new year, there will be a landscape architecture lecture on garden planning and design in February; a presentation by Chef Ryan Jones on how he incorporates fresh herbs in his recipes in March; and our annual hands-on service project in April creating bedside bouquets for local assisted living centers. Several optional field trips were also discussed. The year will end with our annual May luncheon at Surreybrooke Gardens in Middletown, MD, with a guided tour followed by a catered luncheon. Following breakfast and sign-up activities, the newly formed committees held break-out sessions to brainstorm ideas for their committees.



*October*

At our October 9th meeting, members traveled to Purcellville, VA on a beautiful fall day for a tour of Abernethy & Spencer, an expansive greenhouse

and garden center located on 9+ acres. The 100-year-old site, originally named Hilltop Plant Farm, was purchased by the current owners less than two years ago on a handshake deal to keep the site as a nursery. Since then, they

have been working diligently to expand and improve the property while preserving its heritage. Members shared a light breakfast in a new Glass Room event location built to house small gatherings and activities. From there, we were given a complete tour of the facility. Original to the nursery are a large central greenhouse of annuals, herbs, and vegetables, as well as two glasshouses that were transferred after the end of World War II from the Arlington Experimental Farm that was located on the site of the Pentagon, with the first, the Geranium House, containing the largest section of scented and Martha Washington geraniums on the East Coast, and the second housing mainly succulents and cacti. Other features include 12 perennial houses and 5 native perennial houses, with plans to organize native plants by region in the spring, as well as a houseplant and tropical greenhouse, a large selection of trees and shrubs, and a native plant walking trail. Following the tour, members browsed The Conservatory, a restored historical greenhouse that houses a gift and garden shop, café, library and orchidarium.

For our November meeting, the club met at Bretton Woods to create fall floral centerpieces.

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May, typically at Bretton Woods Recreation Club. If you are interested in visiting with us or becoming a member, please email us at [Darnebloomers@gmail.com](mailto:Darnebloomers@gmail.com). You are also welcome to visit our website at [www.darnebloomers.com](http://www.darnebloomers.com). Happy Gardening!

---

### Gaithersburg Area Neighbors & Newcomers Club (GANC)

*A women's social organization dedicated to promoting friendship through activities, events, and informative programs.*



Gaithersburg Area Neighbors & Newcomers Club is a social organization. It was established for women on April 19, 1990, to promote friendship by participation in various activities.

Women socialize through planned events, programs with varying topics, and spur of the moment adventures.

Join us for social opportunities to meet new friends,

*Continued on 11*

---

## Organizations (continued)

---

*Continued from 10*

enjoy various activities & events, and participate in special interest groups.

**Monthly Friends & Food:** Sip & Chat, Lunch Bunch, Couples Dining Out, Fifth Friday Breakfast, Women, Wednesday, & Wine, and Ladies Night Out

**Annual Party Celebrations:** Holiday Party, Halloween Party, St. Patrick's Day Party, Spring Fling, Ice Cream Social, and Pizza Party

**Special Interest Groups:** Canasta, Mahjong, Hand and Foot, Hooks & Needles, Chickenfoot Dominos, Euchre, Book Club, Walking Group, and Let's Go

If this sounds like what you are looking for, please contact us or come to one of our Friday Monthly Meetings where we participate in activities, enjoy interesting speakers or just have fun.

For more information about membership and for dates of the Meetings, email us at **GANCmembership1@yahoo.com**.

---

## Churches

---



### Darnestown Presbyterian Church

**Consider Participating In Our Choirs.** Music is central to our worship, and our vocal *and bell* choirs practice weekly in preparation. We welcome everyone to our choirs—no tryouts needed. If you are interested in joining us, simply ask any member of our church for guidance.

**Year-Round 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.** Our year-round schedule features a single Sunday worship service at **10:30 a.m.**, followed by fellowship over coffee and light treats. Check our website for updates *and check out our live-streamed services on our YouTube channel*.

---



### Fairhaven United Methodist Church

12801 Darnestown Road, Gaithersburg, MD  
**www.fairhavenumcmaryland.com**

Worship Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. Join us for worship in the sanctuary or via Zoom. Our service is fully

interactive for those at home and at the church. Our Gospel, Sanctuary and Handbell choirs offer special music throughout the year. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month and at other special Sundays. The Zoom link can be requested from our church administrator, **fairhavenumc@gmail.com**.

---



### Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

14139 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874  
**www.olvp.org • 301-948-5536**

**Sacred Liturgy:**

**Saturday:** 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

**Daily Masses are celebrated:**

**Monday:** 12:05 p.m.

**Wednesday and Friday:** 12:05 p.m. and 6:05 p.m.

**Tuesday and Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.

**Saturday:** 9:05 a.m.

---

# Business Directory

---

Looking for a local business? The generosity of these local businesses helps to pay for the printing and distribution of *The Little Acorn*. You can also access this listing at [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org) under the **Community Information** tab.

**6-Twelve | Convenient Mart**

14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown  
301-990-1700  
6-12beerwinemart@gmail.com

**BBDASH Contracting | Home Improvement, DIY Helper, Fine Wood Working**

13005 Darnestown Road, Darnestown  
301-938-2859  
bbdashcontracting@comcast.net

**Melissa Bernstein Homes, RLAH—Christine's International Real Estate | Realtor**

726 Turtle Pond Land, Gaithersburg  
301-908-4007  
www.melissabernstein.com

**Birchwood Holiday Lighting and Lawn-care | Landscape Services**

13424 Haddonfield Lane, Darnestown  
301-275-5417  
kricci2@verizon.net

**Bretton Woods | Recreation Center**

15700 River Road, Darnestown  
301-948-3357  
www.bwrc.org

**Brezovek & Associates | Financial Advisor**

15120 Water Oak Dr., Darnestown  
301-320-1483  
mbrezovec@ampf.com

**Jose Carbajal | Lawn & Landscaping, Tree removal, Snow removal, Firewood**

14111 Esworthy Road, Darnestown  
jose.lawnandlandscaping@gmail.com

**Carpet & Flooring LLC | Carpet & Flooring Services**

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown  
240-477-7260  
majid@carpetandflooringcenter.com

**Clark Tree Services | Tree Service**

5 Finegan Court, Darnestown  
240-560-8733  
daniel@clarktrees.com

**Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience, Auto Repairs**

14020 Darnestown Road, Darnestown  
301-840-8515  
darnestownshell@gmail.com

**Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry**

14128 Darnestown Road, Darnestown  
240-477-8251  
mail@darnestownsmiles.com

**Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club | Swim, Tennis, Summer Camp & Disc Golf Club**

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown  
301-330-1340  
GM@dsrclub.com

**Valerie Fuster, Realtor | Long &**

Foster Real Estate Inc.  
10121 River Road, Potomac  
301-980-3083 Direct  
301-299-6000 Office  
Valerie@LNF.com  
www.valfuster.com

**Georgetown Hill Early School |**

Preschool  
15120-B Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown  
301-527-1761  
www.georgetownhill.com  
darnestown@georgetownhill.com

**Johnson Chimney Service | Chimney Repair & Restoration**

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown  
301-949-1780  
www.johnsonchimney.com/us/  
walter@johnsonchimney.com

**Johnson Roofing Service | Residential & Commercial Roofing Solutions**

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown  
301-949-1700  
www.johnsonroofingservice.com/  
info@johnsonroofingservice.com

**Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. | Full-Service Insurance Agency**

2403 Research Boulevard, Ste. 350, Rockville  
301-258-7773  
www.lowetillson.com  
service@lowetillson.com

**ohDEER | Organic Deer, Tick &**

Mosquito Control  
833-ohDEERMoCo | 833-643-3376  
MoCoMD@oh-DEER.com  
www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo  
@ohDEERMoCo

**Pleasant Hills Farm | Specialty Cut**

Flower Farm  
14820 Kelly Farm Drive, Darnestown  
240-281-2110  
www.pleasanthillsfarm.com  
amy@pleasanthillsfarm.com

**Preferred Insurance Solutions, LLC | Auto, Home and Business Insurance**

20030 Century Boulevard, Ste. 201, Germantown  
301-428-3344  
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

**Miguel Saba Realtor | Compass**

Real Estate  
12435 Park Potomac Avenue  
Ste R-1, Potomac  
240-775-0509  
miguel@miguelsaba.com  
www.miguelsaba.com

**Seneca Studio | Original Handcrafted Furnishings**

240-812-1792  
Senecastudio.com  
lukasz@senecastudio.com

**Smokey Glen Farm | Event Facilities**

and BBQs  
16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown  
301-948-1518  
jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

**Stiles Dentistry | Dentist**

333 Main Street, Gaithersburg  
301-947-6900  
smile@stilesdentistry.com

**SwimLabs Swim School | Swim School**

353 Muddy Branch Road, Gaithersburg  
240-801-4518  
ddombay@swimlabs.com

*Continued on 13*

---

## Business Directory (continued)

---

*Continued from 12*

**The Tyra Law Firm, LLC |**  
Estate Planning Law Office  
199 East Montgomery Avenue, Suite  
100, Rockville  
301-315-0811  
neiltyra@tyralawfirm.com

**United Service Specialists | HVAC Services**  
7559 Rickenbacker Drive,  
Gaithersburg  
dispatch@calluss.com

**Valley Mill Camp | Camp**  
15101 Seneca Road, Darnestown  
301-948-0220  
www.valleymill.com  
evelyn@valleymill.com

**Windridge Vineyards | Vineyard**  
15700 Darnestown Road, Darnestown  
301-607-4399  
robert@windridgefarm.com

Interested in joining this list?  
Please use our online application form at  
**darnestowncivic.org.**

---

## Darnestown Churches, Organizations, & Schools

---

If you are a Darnestown school, organization or church and would like your name added to this list,  
please send your information to **acorn@darnestowncivic.org**

### Churches

**Darnestown Presbyterian Church**  
15120 Turkey Foot Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-948-9127 • Darnestownpc.org  
dpchurch@comcast.net

**Fairhaven United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Kenneth Hawes  
12801 Darnestown Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-330-5433

**Gaithersburg International  
Christian Fellowship**  
13101 Darnestown Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-869-8343 • welcome@gicf.church

**Our Lady of the Visitation Parish**  
Father Greg Shaffer  
14139 Seneca Rd,  
Darnestown MD 20874  
301-948-5536  
www.Olvp.org • parishoffice@olvp.org

**Seneca Community Church**  
Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson  
13900 Berryville Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-869-9326 • senecachurch.org

**St. Nicholas Episcopal Church**  
Rev. Beth O'Callaghan  
15575 Germantown Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
240-631-2800 • www.Saintnicks.com

### Organizations

**Boy Scout Troop 1094**  
sm@troop1094.org

**Cub Scout Pack 436**  
www.troopwebhostes.org/  
Pack436NorthPotomac/

**Darne Bloomers Garden Club**  
www.Darnebloomers.com

**Darnestown Civic Association**  
14100G Darnestown Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
www.Darnestowncivic.org

**Girl Scout Troop 33217**  
troop.33217@gmail.com

**P.E.O. International**  
www.peointernational.org

### Schools

**Butler Montessori School**  
15951 Germantown Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-977-6600

**Darnestown Elementary School**  
15030 Turkey Foot Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-548-4260

**Georgetown Hill Early School**  
15120-B Turkey Foot Road  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-527-1761  
www.georgetownhill.com

**Jones Lane Elementary School**  
15110 Jones Ln  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-840-8160

**Lakelands Park Middle School**  
1200 Main St.,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-670-1400

**Little Seneca Bilingual Montessori**  
14010 Darnestown RD,  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
Tel. 301-500-6345  
littlesenecamontessori.com  
littlesenecamontessori@gmail.com

**Mary of Nazareth School**  
14131 Seneca Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-869-0940  
www.Maryofnazareth.org

**Northwest High School**  
12501 Richter Farm Rd  
Germantown, MD 20874  
301-601-4660

**Quince Orchard High School**  
15800 Quince Orchard Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-840-4686

**Seneca Academy (Circle School)**  
15601 Germantown Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-869-3728

## DCA Membership Renewal/Application Form



Membership Category, please check one:

☐ Basic \$35   ☐ Friend \$50   ☐ Sponsor \$100   ☐ Acorn \$150   ☐ Business \$250

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you would like to have your name(s) appear in the annual membership listing: *(if you leave the line blank we will use your first and last names, to opt out see below)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

1st E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

2nd E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to:  
Darnestown Civic Association

Mail to:  
14100 Darnestown RD  
STE G  
Darnestown, MD 20874

The following section allows you to opt-out of having information related to your members published by the DCA. If you would like your information listed in *The Little Acorn* or in a DCA Directory you can skip this section.

The DCA publishes a list of our paid members in *The Little Acorn*, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

☐ DO NOT publish my name in *The Little Acorn* membership listing.

The DCA occasionally publishes a directory for its membership, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

☐ DO NOT publish my name and contact information in the DCA directory.

## Service Providers

To be included on this list in the next issue of *The Little Acorn*, please email your contact information including your year of birth to [acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@darnestowncivic.org) before March 1, 2026. Please let us know if you no longer want to be listed. Of course, for those over 21, you may be listed as an adult. We reserve this listing for those who are members of the DCA. A great reason to join! Note that babysitters and mother's helpers must be under 21 to be listed.

### Babysitters & Mother's Helpers

Jennifer Juhring (2004)  
240-575-0009

Laney Mostrom (2009)  
240-380-6536

Abby Zappone (2009)  
240-474-1586

### Notary Services

Tina Kalil  
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane  
301-990-2993

### House/Pet Sitters

Liv Gabri (2009)  
240-353-7079

Kirabo Payne (2009)  
202-257-9378

Ian Scale (2001)  
240-334-8800

## The Little Acorn

Editor: Amber Colleran

([acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@darnestowncivic.org))

Publisher: Darnestown Civic Association

## Darnestown Civic Association

President: Scott Mostrom ([president@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:president@darnestowncivic.org))

Vice President: Paul Klee ([vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org))

Treasurer: Amy Kurtenbach ([treasurer@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:treasurer@darnestowncivic.org))

Secretary: Elizabeth Rorick ([secretary@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:secretary@darnestowncivic.org))

Trustees: Kellie Hodges, Stephanie Kunkle,  
Steve Kurtenbach ([trustee@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:trustee@darnestowncivic.org))

## Committee Chairs

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb ([compliance@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:compliance@darnestowncivic.org))

Communications Lead: Kellie Hodges ([communications@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:communications@darnestowncivic.org))

Darnestown Village: Pam DuBois ([village@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:village@darnestowncivic.org))

Database: Scott Mostrom ([database@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:database@darnestowncivic.org))

Flag Program: ([flag@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:flag@darnestowncivic.org))

History: Allan Luke ([history@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:history@darnestowncivic.org))

Membership: Pam DuBois ([membership@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:membership@darnestowncivic.org))

Roads Task Force: Michael Centrella ([rtf@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:rtf@darnestowncivic.org))

Safety Committee: Open ([safety@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:safety@darnestowncivic.org))

Seneca Forest Project: James Wheeler ([deer@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:deer@darnestowncivic.org))

Social Events: Caitlin Bannister ([social@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:social@darnestowncivic.org))

Softball: Dave Bivans ([softball@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:softball@darnestowncivic.org))

Strategic Planning: Tim Sanders ([strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org))

Website: Ben Jamieson, Neil Agate ([website@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:website@darnestowncivic.org))

Welcome: Pam DuBois,  
Maya Miloski, Melissa Mostrom ([welcome@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:welcome@darnestowncivic.org))

Zoning: Miguel Saba ([zoning@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:zoning@darnestowncivic.org))

## Digital Newsletter

For the most current news from the Darnestown Civic Association, a digital newsletter is sent every other Thursday. To add yourself to the mailing list, open the camera app on your mobile device and point your camera at this QR code. Your phone will recognize the code and take you to the form to sign up.

Unable to scan the QR code? Send an email to [communications@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:communications@darnestowncivic.org), and we will add you to the list.





## Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: [dca@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)

Website: [darnestowncivic.org](http://darnestowncivic.org)

